

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0862

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW

SUBJ: CONFUSION ABOUT GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

REFS: A) USBERLIN 0833; B) USBERLIN 0862 (NOTAL)

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, DURING APRIL 27 VISIT TO BERLIN, SPEND TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS WITH SPD FRAKTION IN TURBULENT SESSION. THORNIEST SINGLE SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION.
2. SCHMIDT SUGGESTED TO BERLIN SPD THAT FOUNDATION BE LOCATED IN THREE PLACES (BERLIN, DUSSELDORF, AND MUNICH). HE STESSED MATTER WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN GERMAN BUREAUCRACY AND THAT FINAL DECISIONS WERE MONTHS AWAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SCHMIDT GAVE GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ TONGUE LASHING FOR HAVING BROUGHT FOUNDATION QUESTION INTO POLITICAL ARENA BEFORE PREPARATORY WORK WAS COMPLETED.

3. DURING CALL BY EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR SMYSER
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ON FEDERAL AFFAIRS, PLENIPOTENTIARY SPANGENBERG, SPANGENBERG

RECOUNTED THAT CHANCELLERY INTENTION HAD BEEN TO SHELVE MATTER UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, INTERIOR MINISTRY (FDP-LED) HAD SEEN ADVANTAGE IN PROVIDING FUNDS FOR FOUNDATION AND THUS PROVIDE SOME HELP FOR NATIONAL FDP. MATTER HAD SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLODED INTO POLITICAL FOOTBALL. SCHMIDT, ACCORDING TO SPANGENBERG, WAS TAKING SAME POSITION ON FOUNDATION AS ON OTHER BERLIN ISSUES. HE WOULD HELP BERLIN AND SO WHAT BERLIN NEEDED, BUT HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO PLACING INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN UNTIL HE SCHMIDT WAS SURE THEY HAD A REAL PURPOSE. THE STAFF WORK HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED ON THE FOUNDATION, WHAT EXISTED ON PAPER DID NOT SATISFY HIM, AND HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS HE WAS BEING ASKED TO LOCATE IN BERLIN.

4. SPANGENBERG ADDED THAT SCHMIDT HAD TOLD HIM AGAIN THAT WHILE HE WAS ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT BERLIN'S INTERESTS, HE HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO IF MORE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AFFECTING FRG-US RELATIONSHIP BECAME INVOLVED. SPANGENBERG MADE CLEAR THAT NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION COULD BECOME SERIOUS BONE OF CONTENTION WITH EAST, YET ANOTHER REASON FOR CAREFUL DELIBERATION. SPANGENBERG UNDERSTOOD FULLY THAT CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH ALLIES HAD NOT BEGUN AND COULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL FRG KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WISHED TO DO.

5. AT MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR SMYSER APRIL 27, FEDERAL AFFAIRS SENATOR STOBBE ASSERTED AGAIN (REF B) IT WOULD BE NONSENSE TO DIVIDE SMALL ORGANIZATION BETWEEN THREE SITES. TO THIS SENAT OFFICIAL SCHULZE REMARKED THAT EVEN IF THE FOUNDATION CONSISTED OF ONLY THREE PEOPLE, ONE COULD BE IN EACH PLACE. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TOLD LIAISON OFFICERS APRIL 27 THAT HE PERSONALLY FEFT IDEA OF THREE CENTERS MADE POLITICAL SENSE ALTHOUGH AS A BERLINER HE WOULD PREFER BERLIN TO BE SOLE CENTER FOR NEW OPERATION.

6. AT MONTHLY LUNCH WITH THREE ALLIED MINISTERS APRIL 28, SPANGENBERG GAVE ESSENTIALLY SAME ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED YESTERDAY. HE SEEMED TO EMPHASIZE A BIT MORE HOWEVER SCHMIDT'S DETERMINATION THAT BERLIN CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTERS SIMPLY MUST BE VIEWED IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE AND THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN GETTING INTO SQUABBLES WITH SOVIETS OR DIFFICULTIES WITH ALLIES OVER MARGINAL MATTERS. SPANGENBURG ALSO SAID ONE OF

MOST STRIKING THINGS ABOUT WHOLE AFFAIR WAS FACT THAT DURING SCHMIDT'S HALF-HOUR DRESSING-DOWN OF SPD FRAKTION SCHUETZ DID NOT SAY A SINGLE WORD. OTHERS DID SPEAK

OUT (STOBBE, RIEBSCHLAEGER, NEUBAUER, ETC.), SOME TO BE CHOPPED DOWN BY CHANCELLOR, BUT FACT THAT BERLIN SPD LEADER SCHUETZ SAID NOTHING WHATEVER SEEMED IMPRESS ALL PRESENT AS MOST UNUSUAL, ACCORDING TO SPANGENBERG. HE SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS SCHMIDT HAD ALREADY GIVEN SCHUETZ HIS MARCHING ORDERS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AND WANTED TO HEAR NO MORE FROM HIM. ACCORDING TO SPANGENBERG, SCHMIDT WAS VERY ANGRY WITH SCHUETZ OVER LATTER'S WEEKEND INTERVIEW WITH MORGENPOST REGARDING NATIONAL FOUNDATION QUESTION, REPORTED SEPTTEL.

7. BERLIN PRESS NATURALLY HIGHLIGED STIFF ATMOSPHERE WITHIN SPD CAUCUS OVER ISSUE. TAGESSPIEGEL'S BOELKE SUSPECTED LACK OF COHERENT POLICY MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PAST FRG TENDENCY TO SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE SOVIET VIEWPOINTS. HOWEVER, IN TAGESSPIEGEL VIEW, SCHMIDT'S LEADERSHIP STILL HAS CREATED FEELING IN BERLIN THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET BONN'S EAR ON IMPORTANT BERLIN QUESTIONS. AT LUNCH APRIL 28 GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVE WEST BERLIN JOURNALISTS QUESTIONED WHETHER BERLIN EVEN NEEDED SUCH A FOUNDATION.

8. COMMENT: ALL THAT SEEMS CLEAR AT THIS JUNCTURE IS, FIRST, THAT CDU AND FDP SEE ELECTORAL POSSIBILITIES IN NATIONAL FOUNDATION ISSUE; THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE; AND THAT THE FOUNDATION ITSELF, IF IT COMES INTO BEING, WILL BE MODEST IN SIZE IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE HOOPLA THE PROJECT IS NOW RECEIVING. END COMMENT. GEORGE

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